

MEXICO

a. SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
I. TERRITORIAL SEA	Aug 35	Decree	9nm	
	Dec 64	Executive Decree	12nm	
	Dec 69	Executive Decree	12nm	
	Jan 86	Federal Law of the Sea	12nm	
II. ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Aug 68	Decree		Established straight baselines in the Gulf of California. See LIS No. 4.
				This claim is not recognized by the U.S. U.S. protested claim in 1969.
	Jan 86	Federal Law of the Sea		Continued to claim northern part of Gulf of California as internal waters.
	Jan 86	Decree		This claim is not recognized by the U.S. Reiterated straight baseline claim.
III. CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Jan 86	Decree	24nm	
IV. CONTINENTAL SHELF	Oct 45	Presidential Decree		
	Jan 86	Decree	CM/ 200nm	
V. FISHING ZONE/EEZ	Dec 66	Law	12nm	
	Jul 76	Amendment to Article 27 of Constitution	200nm	EEZ: claimed exclusive rights over use of artificial islands/installations/ structures.
	Jan 86	Federal Law of the Sea	200nm	Amended claim of jurisdiction over artificial islands/installations/structures to include establishment and utilization "with regard to the pertinent provisions of this law."
	Jan 86	Decree	200nm	EEZ
VII. MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Apr 72	Agreement		Territorial sea boundary agreement with the USA EIF.
	Jul 76	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with Cuba EIF. See LIS No. 104.
	Nov 76			Exchange of notes with the U.S. effecting the provisional application of the maritime boundary between 12 and 200 miles EIF.
	May 78	Agreement		Maritime boundary agreement with USA (Gulf of Mexico and Pacific) signed.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
VIII. LOS CONVENTION	Dec 82			Signed.
	Mar 83			Ratified.

b. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

1. STRAIGHT BASELINES

A. LEGISLATION. Following are extracts from the Decree of the Mexican Government of 29 August 1968 establishing a straight baseline system:

Article I. The Mexican Territorial Sea in the interior of the Gulf of California will be measured from the base line running:

1. Along the length of the west coast of the Gulf from the point called Punta Arena in the territory of Baja California following the low water line in a northwesterly direction to the point called Punta Arena de la Ventana from there in a straight base line to the point called Roca Montana in the southern extremity of Cerralvo Island; from there along the low water line of the eastern coast of that island to the northern extremity of it; from there in a straight base line to the Arrecife de las Focas; from there in a straight base line to the most easterly point of Espiritu Santo Island; from there following the eastern coast of that island to the northernmost point of it; in a straight base line to the southeasterly extremity of La Partida Island; from there following the east coast of that island to the group of small islands called "Los Islotes" located at the northernmost extremity of the same La Partida Island; from the northern extremity of the mentioned small islands in a straight base line to the southeastern extremity of San Jose Island; from there in a generally northern direction along the low water line of the eastern coast to the point where the coast of that island changes its direction toward the northwest; from that point in a straight base line to the island called Las Animas; from the northern extremity of that island in a straight base line to the [northeast] extremity of the Island Santa Cruz; from there in a straight base line to the southeastern extremity of Santa Catalina Island; from there following the low water line of the eastern shore of that island to the northern extremity of it; from there in a straight baseline to the place called Punta Lobos in the [northeast] extremity of Carmen Island; from there in a straight base line to the [northeastern] extremity of Coronados Island; from there in a straight base line to a point on the coast of the Peninsula of Baja California called Punta Mangles; from there along the low water line of the coast to another point on the coast called Punta Pulpipo; from there in a straight base line to the eastern extremity of San Ildefonso Island; from there in a straight base line to a point on the coast of the Peninsula of California called Punta Santa Teresa; there along the low water line of the coast of the peninsula to the point called Punta Concepcion; from there in a straight base line to the eastern extremity of Santa Ines Island; from there following the eastern coast of that island along the low water line of it to the northern extremity of it; from there in a straight base line to the eastern extremity of Tortuga Island; from there following the low water line of the northern coast of that island to the westernmost point of it; from there in a straight base line to a point on the Peninsula of Baja California called Punta Baja; from there following the low water line along the coast of the Peninsula to the point called Cabo San Miguel; from there in a straight base line to the southwestern extremity of the San Esteban Island.

2. Along the east coast of the Gulf of California from a point called Punta San Miguel in the State of Sinaloa following the low water line in a generally northwestern direction to another point on the same coast called Cabo Arco in the State of Sonora; from there in a straight base line to another point on the same coast called Puerto San Carlos; from there following the low water line of the coast to a point on the same coast called Punta Doble; from there in a straight base line to the southeastern extremity of the San Pedro Nolasco Island; from there following the low water line of the western coast of that island to the northern extremity of it; from there in a straight base line to a point on the coast called Punta Lesna; from there following the low water line of the eastern coast of the Gulf to a point on the coast of the State of Sonora called Punta Baja; from there in a straight base line to the southern extremity of the Turners Island; from there in a straight base line to the [northeastern] extremity of the San Esteban Island.

TEMPORARY ARTICLES

Article 1. This decree will enter into force on the day of its publication in the Diario Oficial of the Federation.

Article 2. The straight base lines referred to in this Decree will be clearly indicated on the marine charts which will be given adequate publicity in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 6 of Article 4 of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone of April 29, 1958.

In compliance with the provisions of Fraction 1, Article 89 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States and for its publication and observance I promulgate this regulation in the seat of the Federal Executive Power in the City of Mexico on the 29th day of the month of August of 1968.

B. ANALYSIS The following explanatory comments are extracted from Limits in the Seas, No. 4, "Straight Baselines: Mexico," 24 January 1970:

The decree creates, in effect, two systems of segmented straight baselines, one on the east coast of the Gulf and one on the west, which join at San Esteban Island approximately 175 nautical miles from the head of the Gulf. The effect of the law is to add approximately 30% of the Gulf of California to the internal waters of the State. The straight baselines, which alternate with stretches of mean low water shore line of the mainland and of islands, extend as follows:

Points West Coast	Length (nm)	Comments
Punta Arena-Roca Montana	39.4	Parallel to coast at a distance of approximately 8 - 10 miles.
N. Cape Cerralvo I. - las Focas	3.9	
las Focas - Punta Lobos (Espiritu Santo)	18.0	Convergent to the coast.
North cape (Espiritu Santo) - SE cape (Partida)	1.0	
Los Isolotes (Partida) - San Jose I.	19.5	Follows general trend of coast.
San Jose - Las Animas	6.0	Diverges from the coast at an angle of c. 60°.
Las Animas - I. Santa Cruz	15.7	Follows general trend of coast at a distance of c. 15 nautical miles.
Santa Cruz - I. Santa Catalina	17.6	Same
Santa Catalina - I. Carmen	26.5	Same
I. Carmen - I. Coronados	11.5	Convergent to coast.
I. Coronados - Punta Mangles	10.9	Rejoins mainland.
Punta Pulpito - I. San Idelfonso	6.6	Diverges from coast at an angle of c. 40°.
I. San Idelfonso - Punta Santa Teresa	6.8	Rejoins mainland.
Punta Concepcion - Santa Ines	10.9	Parallel to coast; closes off bay.
I. Santa Ines - I. Tortuga	23.5	Divergent to coast line at an angle of c. 40°.
I. Tortuga - Punta Baja	27.5	Rejoins mainland.
Cabo San Miguel - I. San Esteban	30.3	Divergent from coast at an angle of c. 50°.
		Serves to close Gulf.

Points East Coast	Length (nm)	Comments
Cabo Arco - Puerto San Carlos	7.3	Closes small bay.
Punta Doble - I. San Pedro Nolasco	14.0	Divergent from coast at an angle of c. 40°.
I. San Pedro Nolasco - Punta Lesna	13.4	Rejoins mainland.
Punta Baja - I. Turners	34.9	Encloses bay-like waters contained between I. Tiburón and mainland.
I. Turners - I. San Esteban	12.2	Closes off northern portion of Gulf in conjunction with west coast line.

The twenty-two segments of straight baselines total 357.4 nautical miles in length. The average length of a segment is 16.24 nautical miles while the longest, from Punta Arena to Isla Cerralvo, measures 39.4 nautical miles. The lines, which follow the coast at a distance between 10 and 15 nautical miles on the average, extend to approximately 25 miles from the mainland at Isla Tortuga and Isla San Esteban.

In the main, the Mexican baselines connect islands which may be judged to fringe the coast. However, in four instances the straight baselines do not conform to the general trend of the coast. The lines enclosing the islands of Las Animas, San Idelfonso, Tortuga and San Pedro Nolasco all diverge from the coast at angles greater than 40 degrees. These angles are maintained over both the local and general trends of the coast. Moreover, straight baselines serve to cut off nearly 30% of the area of the Gulf from the previously defined high seas. Such a move, it would appear, could be justified only on the basis of historic waters as claimed over a considerable period of time. Sole and intensive use by local inhabitants would need to be established. However, no such claim has been discovered in the public record. It should be noted that the northern quarter of the Gulf is virtually devoid of islands. Moreover, the coast is relatively smooth, although a few bay-like indentations exist. As a result, straight baselines for the section would add very little to the internal waters of Mexico.

c. MARITIME BOUNDARIES

MARITIME BOUNDARY: MEXICO - UNITED STATES

1970 TERRITORIAL SEA BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

A. The international maritime boundary in the Gulf of Mexico shall begin at the center of the mouth of the Rio Grande, wherever it may be located; from there it shall run in a straight line to a fixed point, at 25 8' 19.76" West longitude, situated approximately 2,000 feet seaward from the coast; from this fixed point the maritime boundary shall continue seaward in a straight line the delineation of which represents a practical simplification of the line drawn in accordance with the principle of equidistance established in Articles 12 and 24 of the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone. This line shall extend into the Gulf of Mexico shall be recognized in accordance with the map entitled International Maritime Boundary in the Gulf of Mexico, which the Commission shall prepare in conformity with the foregoing description and which, once approved by the Governments, shall be annexed to and form a part of this Treaty.

B. The international maritime boundary in the Pacific Ocean shall begin at the westernmost point of the mainland boundary; from there it shall run seaward on a line the delineation of which represents a practical simplification, through a series of straight lines, of the line drawn in accordance with the principle of equidistance established in Articles 12 and 24 of the Geneva Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone. This line shall extend seaward to a distance of 12 nautical miles from the baselines used for its delineation along the coast of the mainland and the islands of the Contracting States. The international maritime boundary in the Pacific Ocean shall be recognized in accordance with the map entitled International Maritime Boundary in the Pacific Ocean, which the Commission shall prepare in conformity with the foregoing description and which, once approved by the Governments, shall be annexed to and form a part of this Treaty.

Coordinates taken from maps attached to treaty.

Pacific Ocean International Maritime Boundary

Point	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1	32° 32' 03.19"	117° 07' 25.70"
2	32° 31' 38.79"	117° 14' 17.49"
3	32° 33' 12.04"	117° 15' 44.76"
4	32° 34' 20.93"	117° 21' 58.39"
5	32° 35' 22.11"	117° 27' 49.42"

Gulf of Mexico International Maritime Boundary

Point	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1	25° 57' 22.18"	97° 08' 19.76"
2	25° 58' 30.57"	96° 55' 27.37"

1978 TREATY ON THE MARITIME BOUNDARY

The United States of America and the United Mexican States agree to establish and recognize as their maritime boundaries in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Pacific Ocean, in addition to those established by the Treaty of November 23, 1970, the geodetic lines connecting the points whose coordinates are:

POINT	LATITUDE (N)	LONGITUDE (W)
WESTERN GULF OF MEXICO		
GM.W-1	25° 58' 30.57"	96° 55' 27.37"
GM.W-2	26° 00' 31.00"	96° 48' 29.00"
GM.W-3	26° 00' 30.00"	95° 39' 26.00"
GM.W-4	25° 59' 48.28"	93° 26' 42.19"
EASTERN GULF OF MEXICO		
GM.E-1	25° 42' 13.05"	91° 05' 24.89"
GM.E-2	25° 46' 52.00"	90° 29' 41.00"
GM.E-3	25° 41' 56.52"	88° 23' 05.54"
PACIFIC OCEAN		
OP-1	32° 35' 22.11"	117° 27' 49.42"
OP-2	32° 37' 37.00"	117° 49' 31.00"
OP-3	31° 07' 58.00"	118° 36' 18.00"
OP-4	30° 32' 31.20"	121° 51' 58.37"

North of the maritime boundaries established by Article I, the United Mexican States shall not, and south of said boundaries, the United States of America shall not, claim or exercise any purpose sovereign rights or jurisdiction over the waters or seabed and subsoil.

MARITIME BOUNDARY: MEXICO-CUBA

1. The Government of Mexico and the Government of Cuba agree to establish the boundary line between the Exclusive Economic Zone of Mexico and that which will be the economic zone of Cuba (or its equivalent) on the basis of the principle of equidistance.
2. The boundary line referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be defined by the arcs of a great circle joining the points whose geodetic coordinates, determined on the basis of the best information available to date, are as follows:

POINT NUMBER		LATITUDE (N)		LONGITUDE (W)
1	24	56° 28' 83"	86	56° 16' 69"
2	23	30° 31' 50"	86	24° 14' 70"
3	23	26° 54' 30"	86	22° 33' 80"
4	22	45° 32' 80"	86	06° 55' 00"
5	22	18° 55' 80"	86	00° 35' 20"
6	21	41° 31' 50"	85	52° 43' 40"
7	21	36° 00' 10"	85	51° 18' 20"
8	21	35° 20' 90"	85	51° 09' 30"
9	20	49° 36' 40"	85	32° 23' 10"
10	20	17° 46' 70"	85	07° 24' 25"
11	20	04° 37' 10"	84	57° 56' 30"
12	19	39° 16' 60"	84	42° 46' 50"
13	19	32° 25' 80"	84	38° 30' 66"

4. The boundary line shall also be the boundary line of the continental shelf, if any, between Mexico and Cuba.